



US Department of Transportation
Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
EPA Information Center • 501 Mineral Avenue • Libby, MT 59923
Phone: 406-293-6194 Fax: 406-293-5668

August 26, 2003

St. John Lutheran Church
1017 Montana
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Pastor Christiansen:

As you requested, I am writing to summarize the events leading up to the removal of contaminated soil from the St. John Lutheran Day Care property at 1024 Montana.

On April 18, 2001, eighteen (18) surface and subsurface soil samples were collected from the property. On June 21, 2001, Duc Nguyen, On-Scene Coordinator for the EPA, met with Helen Bledsoe and Ron Harris of the St. John Lutheran Church Board to discuss the results. Eleven (11) of the eighteen samples had <1% Libby Amphibole asbestos detected; four of which were collected from the surface soils. Mr. Nguyen and the board members discussed the analytical results and the associated risk, and the EPA was asked to take no further action at the property.

A Comprehensive Screening Study (CSS) investigation was completed on October 15, 2002. The purpose of the CSS investigation was to collect information in order to fully characterize the interior and exterior condition of the property. At that time, no visible vermiculite was present in the interior, the yards, flowerbeds, or playground. Soil samples were collected but have not yet been analyzed.

During the week of August 18, 2003, Myresa Boulware from Kootenai Valley Christian School contacted the EPA Information Center. Ms. Boulware notified us that she was leasing the property from St. John Lutheran Church and requested a copy of the CSS



US Department of Transportation
Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
EPA Information Center • 501 Mineral Avenue • Libby, MT 59923
Phone: 406-293-6194 Fax: 406-293-5688

investigation form. Someone had informed Ms. Boulware that visible vermiculite was present on the playground and she was concerned about her students playing in that area. An inspection team visited the property on August 20 - 21, 2003 and found evidence of visible vermiculite and asbestos on the surface of the playground. Because of the presence of visible asbestos on the surface, an immediate clean up of the playground was required.

If you have any questions about the sampling that occurred or the clean up that is currently taking place, please feel free to contact me at the EPA Information Center, 406-293-6194.

Sincerely,

Courtney Zamora
Site Manager
USDOT - Volpe Center